

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies comprising:
 - 5 a receiver, arranged to receive a request for collecting the used office supplies from a client;
a controller, arranged to have collecting data concerning the used office supplies requested for collecting stored in a memory with the data associated with
 - 10 said client; and
an issuer, arranged to issue a collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
15 a generator, arranged to generate a collecting slip, with said collecting code recorded, to be dispatched to said client.
3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said
20 collecting slip is attached to a collecting container.
4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said collecting container accommodates a predetermined quantity of the used office supplies to be collected.

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10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said collecting slip is attached to the used office supplies to be collected.

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11. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

a reader, arranged to read out a collecting code
recorded on the collecting slip attached to the used office
supplies collected;

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a comparaer, arranged to compare a kind and quantity of the used office supplies shown by the collecting data corresponding to the collecting code read out with the kind and quantity of the used office supplies collected; and

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a corrector, arranged to correct said collecting data when result of the comparison does not show coincidence.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a recorder, arranged to calculate a collecting rate of the used office supplies for respective users and/or kinds of the used office supplies and to recorded in said memory after completion of a process by said comparater or corrector.

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25 13. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a determinator, which determines incentive to be provided to the client for respective clients and/or

kinds of the used office supplies in compliance with the collecting rate of the used office supplies.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said
5 incentive is determined based on an incentive setting table stored in said memory.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, further
comprising an indicator which presents information of the
10 collecting rate calculated and/or incentive determined to said client.

16. The apparatus according to claim 12, further
comprising an analyzer, arranged to analyze a collecting
15 trend for respective kinds of the used office supplies based on the collecting rate recorded.

17. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a request
for collecting said used office supplies is carried out via
20 the Internet.

18. A collecting method of collecting used office supplies comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for collecting the used office
25 supplies from a client;

having collecting data concerning the used office supplies requested for collecting stored in a memory with the data associated with said client; and

issuing a collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory.

19. The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of generating a collecting slip, with said collecting code recorded therein, to be dispatched to said client.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein said collecting slip is attached to a collecting container.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein said collecting container accommodates a predetermined quantity of the used office supplies to be collected.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein said collecting slip is collected together with the collecting container which accommodates the used office supplies.

23. The method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

reading out a collecting code recorded on the collecting slip attached to the collecting container collected;

comparing a kind and quantity of the used office supplies shown by the collecting data corresponding to the collecting code read out with the kind and quantity of the used office supplies collected; and

5 correcting said collecting data when result of the comparison does not show coincidence.

24. The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting said collecting code to said
10 client.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein transmitting of said collecting code is carried out via the Internet.

15 26. The method according to claim 24, wherein the collecting code is transmitted to said client so that the client generates the collecting slip.

27. The method according to claim 26, wherein said
20 collecting slip is attached to the used office supplies to be collected.

28. The method according to claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

25 reading out the collecting code recorded on the collecting slip attached to the collecting container collected;

comparing the kind and quantity of the used office supplies shown by the collecting data corresponding to the collecting code read out with the kind and quantity of the used office supplies collected; and

5 correcting said collecting data when result of the
comparison does not show coincidence.

29. The method according to claim 28, further comprising
the step of calculating a collecting rate of the used office
10 supplies for respective clients and/or kinds of the used
office supplies to be recorded in said memory after
completion of said comparing or correcting.

30. The method according to claim 29, further comprising
15 the step of determining incentive to be provided to the
client for respective clients and/or kinds of the used
office supplies in compliance with the collecting rate of
the used office supplies.

20 31. The method according to claim 30, wherein said
incentive is determined based on an incentive setting table
stored in said memory.

32. The method according to claim 30, further comprising
25 the step of presenting information of the collecting rate
calculated and/or the incentive determined to said client.

33. The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of analyzing a collecting trend for respective kinds of the used office supplies based on the collecting rate recorded.

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34. The method according to claim 18, wherein a request for collecting said used office supplies is carried out via the Internet.

10 35. A collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies comprising:

a controller, arranged to have collecting data stored in a memory concerning the used office supplies which is input and transmitted via the Internet by the client in an
15 input screen provided by said apparatus;

an issuer, arranged to issue a collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory; and

an indicator, arranged to indicate the collecting data which is accessed with said collecting code collected
20 together with said used office supplies in order to confirm that the used office supplies collected from said client coincide with the collecting data stored in said memory.

36. The apparatus according to claim 35, further
25 comprising a provider, arranged to provide the incentive based on the collecting data stored in said memory and result of said confirmation.

37. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said collecting data is stored in said memory with associated with the client.

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38. The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said collecting data is associated with information on a name and/or place of said client.

10 39. The apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising a calculator, arranged to calculate the collecting rate based on the collecting data stored in said memory.

15 40. The apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising an analyzer, arranged to analyze a collecting trend based on the collecting data stored in said memory.

41. The apparatus according to claim 35, further
20 comprising a recognition unit, arranged to recognize a collecting manner of the used office supplies selected by said client, wherein said collecting manner includes at least an individual collecting and a lump-sum collecting.

25 42. The apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the lump-sum collecting is automatically selected based on the collecting data stored in association with said client.

43. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the provider provides information on the indication for confirming the incentive to said client via the Internet.

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44. The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the provider provides information on the indication for confirming said collecting rate to said client via the Internet.

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45. The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said collecting data includes the kind and/or quantity of the used office supplies and wherein said providing of the incentive differs depending upon the respective kinds and/or quantities of the used office supplies.

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46. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said providing of the incentive is carried out for the respective clients.

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47. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said providing of the incentive differs depending upon terms.

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48. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said providing of the incentive differs depending upon areas where the clients are located.

49. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said incentive is a discount rate of prices of the used office supplies which the client desires to purchase.

5 50. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said incentive includes providing additional points to the client, permitting discount of the prices of the used office supplies which the client desires to purchase or presentation of the used office supplies desired by the
10 client with respect to accumulation of a predetermined number of the points.

51. The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said collecting code collected together with said used office
15 supplies is attached to or recorded on the used office supplies or attached to or recorded on the collecting container which accommodates the used office supplies.

52. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said used office supplies include business supplies.

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53. The apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said business supplies include cartridges and ink containers.

54. The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said
25 client includes a user and collecting agent.

55. The apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising a transmitter, arranged to transmit the collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory.

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56. A collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies comprising:

10 a controller, arranged to have collecting data stored in a memory concerning the used office supplies which is input and transmitted via the Internet by the client in an input screen provided by said apparatus; and

a transmitter, arranged to transmit the collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory; and

15 an indicator, arranged to indicate the collecting data which is accessed with said collecting code collected together with said used office supplies in order to confirm that the used office supplies collected from said client coincide with the collecting data stored in said memory.

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57. The apparatus according to claim 56, further comprising a provider, arranged to provide the incentive based on the collecting data stored in said memory and result of said confirmation.

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58. The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the collecting code is transmitted by the transmitter so that the client generates the collecting slip.

5 59. The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the controller recognizes selection of transmitting said collecting code by said client and has the transmitter transmit said collecting code to said client when recognizing the selection of transmitting.

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60. A collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies comprising:

an issuer, arranged to issue a collecting code associated with the collecting data concerning the used
15 office supplies requested for collecting; and

a provider, arranged to provide the incentive based on said collecting code which is collected together with the used office supplies collected from the client.

20 61. A collecting method of collecting used office supplies comprising the steps of:

having collecting data stored in a memory concerning the used office supplies which is input and transmitted via the Internet by the client in an input screen provided by
25 the collecting apparatus;

issuing a collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory; and

indicating the collecting data which is accessed with
said collecting code collected together with said used
office supplies in order to confirm that the used office
supplies collected from said client coincide with the
5 collecting data stored in said memory.

62. The method according to claim 61, further comprising
the step of providing the incentive based on the collecting
data stored in said memory and result of said confirmation.

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63. The method according to claim 61, wherein said
collecting data is stored in said memory with associated
with the client.

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64. The method according to claim 63, wherein said
collecting data is associated with information on a name
and/or place of said client.

65. The method according to claim 61, further comprising
20 the step of calculating the collecting rate based on the
collecting data stored in said memory.

66. The method according to claim 61, further comprising
the step of analyzing a collecting trend based on the
25 collecting data stored in said memory.

67. The method according to claim 61, further comprising the step of recognizing a collecting manner of the used office supplies selected by said client, wherein said collecting manner includes at least an individual
5 collecting and a lump-sum collecting.

68. The method according to claim 67, wherein the lump-sum collecting is automatically selected based on the collecting data stored in association with said client.
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69. The method according to claim 62, wherein the information on the indication for confirming the incentive is provided to said client via the Internet.

70. The method according to claim 62, wherein the information on the indication for confirming said collecting rate is provided to said client via the Internet.
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71. The method according to claim 61, wherein said
20 collecting data includes the kinds of the used office supplies.

72. The method according to claim 61, wherein said collecting data includes the quantities of the used office
25 supplies.

73. The method according to claim 62, wherein said providing of the incentive is carried out for the respective clients.

5 74. The method according to claim 62, wherein said providing of the incentive differs depending upon the kinds of the used office supplies.

10 75. The method according to claim 62, wherein said providing of the incentive differs depending upon the quantities of the used office supplies.

15 76. The method according to claim 62, wherein said providing of the incentive differs depending upon terms.

77. The method according to claim 62, wherein said providing of the incentive differs depending upon areas where the clients are located.

20 78. The method according to claim 62, wherein said incentive is a discount rate of prices of the used office supplies which the client desires to purchase.

25 79. The method according to claim 62, wherein said incentive includes providing additional points to the client, permitting discount of the prices of the used office supplies which the client desires to purchase or

the Internet by the client in an input screen provided by the collecting apparatus;

transmitting the collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory; and

- 5 indicating the collecting data which is accessed with said collecting code collected together with said used office supplies in order to confirm that the used office supplies collected from said client coincide with the collecting data stored in said memory.

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86. The method according to claim 85, further comprising the step of providing the incentive based on the collecting data stored in said memory and result of said confirmation.

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87. The method according to claim 85, wherein the collecting code is transmitted so that the client generates the collecting slip.

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88. The method according to claim 85, further comprising the steps of:

recognizing selection of transmitting said collecting code by said client; and

transmitting said collecting code to said client when the selection of transmitting is recognized.

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89. A collecting method for collecting used office supplies comprising the steps of:

issuing a collecting code associated with the
collecting data concerning the used office supplies
requested for collecting; and

- providing the incentive based on said collecting code
- 5 which is collected together with the used office supplies
collected from the client.

90. A computer program product comprising a computer
readable medium having a computer program code for a control
10 method which controls a collecting apparatus for collecting
used office supplies, comprising program codes for:

receiving a request for collecting the used office
supplies from a client;

- having collecting data concerning the used office
15 supplies requested for collecting stored in a memory with
the data associated with said client; and

issuing a collecting code for accessing the collecting
data stored in said memory.

- 20 91. A computer program product comprising a computer
readable medium having a computer program code for a control
method which controls a collecting apparatus for collecting
used office supplies, comprising program codes for:

- having collecting data stored in a memory concerning
25 the used office supplies which is input and transmitted via
the Internet by the client in an input screen provided by
the collecting apparatus;

issuing a collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory; and

indicating the collecting data which is accessed with said collecting code collected together with said used
5 office supplies in order to confirm that the used office supplies collected from said client coincide with the collecting data stored in said memory.

92. A computer program product comprising a computer
10 readable medium having a computer program code for a control method which controls a collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies, comprising program codes for:

having collecting data stored in a memory concerning the used office supplies which is input and transmitted via
15 the Internet by the client in an input screen provided by the collecting apparatus;

transmitting the collecting code for accessing the collecting data stored in said memory; and

indicating the collecting data which is accessed with
20 said collecting code collected together with said used office supplies in order to confirm that the used office supplies collected from said client coincide with the collecting data stored in said memory.

93. A computer program product comprising a computer
25 readable medium having a computer program code for a control

a manager arranged to manage a collecting condition of the used office supplies in compliance with the collecting code read by the reader; and

- 5 a provider, arranged to provide information for indicating the collecting condition managed by the manager to a computer externally connected via the Internet.

96. A collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies comprising:

- 10 a provider, arranged to provide a computer communicably connected, with information on a screen for requesting collecting of the used office supplies, at least for inputting the information which identifies the kind of said used office supplies; and

- 15 an informer, arranged to inform said computer of a collecting code including the information which is input via an indicating screen based on said information on the screen and identifies the kind of said used office supplies.

- 20 97. The apparatus according to claim 96, further comprising a recognition unit, arranged to recognize client ID transmitted from the computer communicably connected, wherein said collecting code includes information for recognizing said client.

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98. The apparatus according to claim 97, wherein said collecting code is to be printed, and a medium on which said

collecting code is printed is delivered to the collecting center together with a collecting box for delivering said used office supplies, and the manager manages the collecting condition for said client based on the
5 information for the collecting code read by the reader.

99. An information processing apparatus for receiving a request to collect used office supplies comprising:

10 a receiver, arranged to receive information on a request for collecting including information on at least the kind and quantity of said used office supplies which is transmitted from the computer connected via the Internet;

15 a generator, arranged to generate the collecting code including information on at least the kind and quantity of said used office supplies based on the information on the request for collecting received by the receiver; and

a transmitter, arranged to transmit the collecting code generated by the generator to said computer.

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100. A collecting method of collecting used office supplies comprising the steps of:

updating client's collecting data of the used office supplies which is accumulated in a memory for respective
25 clients;

calculating information on incentive in compliance with the collecting data updated; and

providing information on an order screen by which said client orders the used office supplies, wherein said information on the order screen includes said information on the incentive.

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101. A collecting method of collecting used office supplies comprising the steps of:

reading a collecting code which is sent together with the used office supplies and includes at least information

10 on kinds of the used office supplies;

managing a collecting condition of the used office supplies in compliance with the collecting code read by the reader; and

15 providing information for indicating the collecting condition managed to a computer externally connected via the Internet.

102. A collecting method of collecting used office supplies comprising the steps of:

20 providing a computer communicably connected with information on a screen for requesting collecting of the used office supplies, at least for inputting the information which identifies the kind of said used office supplies; and

25 informing said computer of a collecting code including the information which is input via an indicating

screen based on said information on the screen and identifies the kind of said used office supplies.

103. An information processing method of receiving a
5 request to collect used office supplies comprising the steps of:

receiving information on a request for collecting including information on at least the kind and quantity of said used office supplies which is transmitted from the
10 computer connected via the Internet;

generating the collecting code including information on at least the kind and quantity of said used office supplies based on the information on the request for collecting received; and

15 transmitting the collecting code generated by the generator to said computer.

104. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having a computer program code for a control
20 method which controls a collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies, comprising program codes for:

updating client's collecting data of the used office supplies which is accumulated in a memory for respective clients;

25 calculating information on incentive in compliance with the collecting data updated; and

providing information on an order screen by which said client orders the used office supplies, wherein said information on the order screen includes said information on the incentive.

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105. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having a computer program code for a control method which controls a collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies, comprising program codes for:

10 reading a collecting code which is sent together with the used office supplies and includes at least information on kinds of the used office supplies;

managing a collecting condition of the used office supplies in compliance with the collecting code read; and

15 providing information for indicating the collecting condition managed to a computer externally connected via the Internet.

106. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having a computer program code for a control method which controls a collecting apparatus for collecting used office supplies, comprising program codes for:

providing a computer communicably connected with information on a screen for requesting collecting of the
25 used office supplies, at least for inputting the information which identifies the kind of said used office supplies; and

informing said computer of a collecting code including the information which is input via an indicating screen based on said information on the screen and identifies the kind of said used office supplies.

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107. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having a computer program code for an information processing which receive a request to collect used office supplies, comprising program codes for:

10 receiving information on a request for collecting including information on at least the kind and quantity of said used office supplies which is transmitted from the computer connected via the Internet;

generating the collecting code including information
15 on at least the kind and quantity of said used office supplies based on the information on the request for collecting received; and

transmitting the collecting code generated by the generator to said computer.